

Tavern Times

Volume XXVI, No. 4

July/August 2005

John Yagerline Fund

This past April, Gadsby's Tavern Museum lost one of its most energetic and dedicated volunteers, John Yagerline. His memory and love for the tavern will live on however. Through the generosity of John's friends and family, \$820 has been contributed to Gadsby's Tavern Museum to date.

The Museum Staff is pleased to announce that all donations made to the museum in memory of John will be designated toward the sponsorship of one of the most popular educational programs—the Fall Lecture Series. “John loved to share the history of Gadsby's Tavern and 18th century Alexandria to all who would listen, so this is an especially appropriate way to continue that tradition” noted Gretchen Bulova. This fall, the John Yagerline Lecture Series will be christened—see page three for the fall line-up. Proceeds from the lectures will go into the Yagerline Fund to continue to support educational and challenging learning throughout the year. John would be proud!

Contributions to the John Yagerline Fund will be continuously accepted. Donors to this fund will be invited to attend a special opening celebration to launch the Fall Lecture Series.



Welcome Molly Sinclair...

The Museum Staff is pleased to welcome Molly Sinclair as the new Curator of Education and Volunteer Coordinator! Molly comes to us from The Columbus Museum in Columbus, Georgia where she was the School and Educator Services Coordinator. She has a Master's Degree in Museum Education from The George Washington University and her BA from St. Lawrence University.

Besides working in Georgia, Molly has gained experience at a variety of local institutions such as the National Building Museum, the Hirshhorn, the Textile Museum, and the Capital Children's Museum.

Make sure you introduce yourself to Molly. She'll be starting at Gadsby's on August 4th—just in time for Children's Days.

... Farewell Kirsten Doescher

We are sad to say good-bye to Kirsten Doescher as she heads off to Kansas with her husband as he takes a teaching position at Benedictine College. Her presence around the museum at birthday parties, special events and rentals will be sorely missed. Over her 2 1/2 year tenure she worked with:

- Over 2,600 Rental patrons
- Over 1,000 Girl Scouts during the Overnight Program
- Over 350 children at the Birthday Parties
- Plus the Costume Symposium, George Washington 10K Race, the second Inaugural Jefferson Banquet, and countless 18th Century Balls, and other programs.

Thank you Kirsten, for all you have done to make the public programs at Gadsby's a tremendous success.



Love to Sew?

During the slower summer months, volunteers are needed for a few sewing projects. Projects can even be taken home. Call Gretchen or Callie for a project.

- ✓ Hem linen for napkins for the Taproom—yard squares of brown linen have been pre-cut and are ready for sewing.
- ✓ Repair tears, sew buttons, and fix drawstrings on items in the costume collection.





Ask Provey: Museum Questions Answered

Dear Provey - We know John Gadsby was always trying to find better ways to serve his guests at the City Tavern & Hotel but what did he do for them at the "Coffee House?"

In the building we refer to today as the "1785 tavern building," John Gadsby operated a Coffee House between 1802 and 1808. One of the services he offered was newspaper subscriptions. To help pass along the most up-to-date news, he subscribed to no less than 33 papers from Boston to Savannah. Isn't it interesting that this subscription information was tracked back then by the City? The complete list of newspaper subscriptions can be found in the Alexandria City Account of Newspaper Purchases from January 1804 - April 1807. This information was recently found on microfilm in the Special Collections of the Alexandria Library.

T. Bruff, (Dentist) Inventor and Paten'ee of the Perpendicular extracting Instruments

Is now at Mr. Gadsby's and offers his service, for a few days, to the inhabitants of Alexandria...He makes and fixes whole setts of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, on an improved and easy plan, regulates teeth of children, and relieves infants of pains of dentition...To know if your teeth want cleansing examine them before a glass in a clear light beginning at the middle front teeth of the lower jaw. If the gums are departing from their former place, or a black or yellow crust adhering to the teeth you have cause of alarm; as that corrosive substance called tartar will decay the teeth, produce scurvy, or consume the gums and boney process till the teeth drop out.

Alexandria Expositor April 19, 1805

OHA Awards

On May 18th, three Gadsby staff members received awards from the Office of Historic Alexandria to commend their service to the Department:



- **Callie Stapp** Since the departure of the Curator of Education Andrea West, Callie has worked with the school tour program, booking and managing these tours. Over 1,000 school children have come through under her watch as the interim Curator of Education.
- **Kirsten Doescher** In addition to skillfully managing the museum's public programs, Kirsten successfully introduced a series of birthday party programs to expand the museum's program offerings. She was recognized for her creativity.
- **Nicole Quinn** Nicole's efforts were much appreciated at The Lyceum as she filled in for Bob Schurk during his recovery from hip surgery. She managed the very active rental program at The Lyceum and made herself invaluable. (We are glad to have Nicole back as our Tuesday Museum Aide though!)

Brian Pohanka 1955 - 2005

Brian C. Pohanka, 50, a Civil War historian and husband to former staff member Cricket Bauer, passed away on June 15 after a long battle with cancer. He was a senior researcher, writer and advisor on all the Time-Life Book's Civil War projects and was Series Consultant for the A&E/History Channel television documentary *Civil War Journal*. In addition to this work and frequent lectures, he consulted on a number of films including *Gettysburg*, *Gods and Generals*, *Glory*, and *Cold Mountain*. Brian was an accomplished author, served on a number of preservation organizations, and was well known for his participation in Civil War living history as a Captain in the 5th New York Volunteer Infantry.

Cricket and Brian encouraged the expanded research on the museum's Civil War history and were instrumental in developing the Civil War Ball program. Donations can be made in his honor by calling the Civil War Preservation Trust at 202.367.1861.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Over 200 school children in May and June were educated and entertained on **school tours** by *Martha Lysko, Lilian Silveira, Ellen Stanton, and Mary Underhill*. Thank you for a great school year. The school program is such an important part of the Museum's programming.

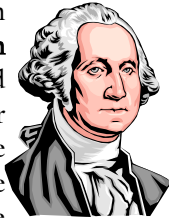
Jill Chiarello, Pat Sowers, and Philippe Halbert assisted with tea parties and games during the ever popular **birthday parties**. Birthday party business is growing every month. Please consider learning the party program and joining in on the fun!

Mary Geraghty, Sue Westendorf, Larry Jamieson, Melinda Mount, and Valerie Ballard attended this year's **Boy Scout Program Launch** to spread the word about Gadsby's terrific public programs including History Hunters and Swordsman's Rendezvous. We look forward to a great FY06 event season.

And thanks to *Melinda Mount* for her **group tour** expertise with the Retired Chemists Group of the Chemical Society of

Thank you Maibach Foundation!

Thank you to the Maibach Foundation for sponsoring the 2004-2005 **American Founding Lecture Series**. This series featured the cutting edge scholarship of Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of George Mason University. More than 200 lecture attendees expanded their knowledge of George Washington—learning more about Washington's involvement in the French and Indian War to his relationship with West Ford. The financial support of the Maibach Foundation provided the museum with a tremendous opportunity to expand the Lecture Series' audience and create a teacher certification credit program.



Press Tour at Gadsby's

On June 17th & 18th, travel writers took part in the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association's press weekend "Of Pubs and Patriots." Events included a reception highlighting many of the city's great food businesses—from Cheesetique to Kingsbury Chocolates, a tour of the farmers market, and a culinary walking tour with Gadsby's own volunteer Wellington Watts.

All enjoyed a tour of Gadsby's with Assistant Director Liz Williams and asked many engaging questions. A few have expressed an interest in returning for the Birthnight Ball and The Great Rum Punch Challenge. We look forward to more additional press exposure for the museum in the future!

John Yagerline Lecture Series

Join us this fall to learn more about the 18th century production and consumption of whiskey, finding art in your local cemetery, and of course expand your knowledge about the Father of our Country.

- **September 21** Edward Lengel, from the Washington Papers at UVA, will discuss and sign his new book, "General George Washington: A Military Life." Books will be available for purchase.
- **October 5** Now that Gadsby's is part of the historic Whiskey Tour, let's learn more about Whiskey and sales in the 18th century. Esther White, Director of Archeology at Mount Vernon, will share her research about whiskey and the current excavations at the George Washington's distillery.
- **October 19** Get in the Halloween spirit with Dwight Young, Senior Communications Associate of the National Trust, as he takes you through the history of cemetery design in America while presenting an informative and entertaining look at the structures and symbols -- some beautiful, surprising, and bizarre -- that can turn a cemetery into an outdoor art gallery.
- **November 2** Dr. Peter Henriques, Historian and Professor Emeritus at George Mason University, is back by popular demand to speak on the leadership of George Washington.

And don't forget about our special **August 11th** lecture from 7:30 – 9:00pm with Dr. Stuart Leibiger as he discusses the 1785 Mount Vernon Conference, the first step toward Philadelphia and the creation of the Constitution. This lecture will be offered **FREE** to museum volunteers and Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society members!

Calendar of Events

Friday Evening Lantern Tours

Friday evenings 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Tavern Days

August 7

Children's Days

August 9-11

Lecture by Stuart Leibiger

August 11

Lecture by Edward Lengel

September 21

10th Annual Costume Symposium

"Wearing It Well: 18th Century Dress & Lifestyle"

September 29—October 1

Lecture by Esther White

October 5

History Hunters

October 16

Lecture by Dwight Young

October 19

Mission Statement

Gadsby's Tavern Museum's programs, collections, and exhibitions create a varied and meaningful learning environment that addresses the needs and interests of our community's residents and visitors. Like the 18th-century purpose of the site, our goal is to play a dynamic role in the social, economic, and educational life of Alexandria, thus contributing to the City's identity and vitality.

GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM

Gadsby's Tavern Museum

134 North Royal Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: 703-838-4242

Fax: 703-838-4270

Email: gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov

Website: gadsbystavern.org

Society Website: gadsbystavernmuseum.us

